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Title: Need to declare and develop Gingee town in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu as a tourist centre.

SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY (ARANI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the dire need to develop Gingee Town as the Tourist Centre in Viluppuram District, which is 130 kms. from Chennai.

Gingee Town and the surrounding areas were ruled by one King from North-Desing Raja and built a Fort and palaces on the top of the mountain. He ruled the entire place for certain period. This place is a symbol of secularism. This place is being now maintained by the Archeological Department and it is on the National Highway between Puducherry to Krishnagiri. On the said National Highway, there are two mountains and on which two palaces have been built called â€" Rani palace and Raja Palace. He had one Lieutenant called Mohammed Khan. He had immense faith in him and the Mohammed Khan was his Commandar. When the invasion of Arcot Nawab took place, Mohammed Khan gave his life for his friend Desing Raja in the battle when Arcot Nawab invaded this place. This place is symbol for secularism where Hindus, Islams, Jains and other communities are living peacefully. To declare this place as a tourism centre, a request has been made several times and it appears the file is pending with the State Government of Tamil Nadu for the reasons not known. If this place is developed as tourism centre, it will be like another Mahabalipuram, which is close to Chennai City and it attracts the foreign tourists.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, through the Chair, to visit the place and declare Gingee town as a tourist centre so that it could attract more tourists and will fetch revenue by providing cable car between the two mountains.